

OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

Volume: 15-03
Released: July 14, 2003
Week Ending: July 13, 2003

Phone: 503 326-2131
Toll Free: 1-800-338-2157
E-Mail: nass-or@nass.usda.gov

National website at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>
Oregon website at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/or>

Weather and Overview: Conditions remained hot and dry throughout much of the State, and temperatures in general increased slightly from last week. Irrigation useage continued to pick up, but so far the water has held up well. An increase in precipitation would greatly benefit pasturelands, but would also hamper harvesting activities which are underway or just about to get underway. Gusty winds in Jackson and Josephine counties have helped to dry out soils there. Some thunderstorms in Wallowa County were reported, as was some rainfall in the mountains in Union County. Joseph and La Grande reported precipitation slightly above average. Ontario reported a high temperature of 104 degrees, along with 215 growing degree days.

Field Crops: Haying continued statewide with good to average yields. In Malheur County, the corn was growing and the wheat harvest was underway. Second cutting of alfalfa was almost finished. The wheat harvest was underway in the mid-Columbia Basin. In Union County, grass seed harvest was ongoing. Some second cutting of hay and alfalfa was starting. In the Willamette Valley, the grass seed harvest continued with yields about average.

Vegetables: Vegetable crop growth progressed well. Early planted green beans nearly ready. Sweet corn growing fast. Summer squash and Walla Walla onions are ready. Warm days and cool nights were good for watermelon growth. In Malheur County, several fields of large sized onions were seen, which is good provided that water lasts.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Nurseries were doing lots of stock watering, feeding and weeding. Greenhouses were still moving some summer plants and getting started with fall flowers. Easter lily growers continued to maintain production and prepare new beds for planting. Christmas trees were looking good with lots of new growth.

Fruit: Sweet cherry harvest was winding down in The Dalles and moving to higher elevations south of The Dalles. Late variety harvest should continue for the next three weeks. Cherries continued to be harvested in Hood River County with Hood River Cherry Days just around the corner. Marionberries, raspberries, boysenberries, blueberries, and cherries were available in the Willamette Valley. Yamhill County hazelnut growers began spraying for hazelnut worm. Southern coast cranberries were in late stages of bloom. Jackson County fruits were showing good growth, but required lots of irrigation.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Hot and dry conditions continued across the State. The prolonged heat has caused moisture stress to dry land pastures and lower ranges. It has also dried up watering ponds. Cattle were being moved to irrigated pastures or higher ranges. Livestock reported to be in good condition, despite the warm conditions. Rainfall would be very beneficial.

Crop Progress Week Ending 7/13/03

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
All Barley headed (%)	93	89	100	—
Winter wheat harvested (%)	7	—	15	5
Days suitable for fieldwork	7	6.9	—	—

Soil Moisture Week Ending 7/13/03

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	20	53	57	—
Subsoil (%)	27	45	28	—

Crop Condition Week Ending 7/13/03

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat %	6	23	46	23	2
Barley %	2	5	47	37	9
Range & Pasture %	6	15	35	37	7

CLACKAMAS: Fall seeded grain crops were ripening fast. Grass seed windrowing and combining advancing rapidly. Raspberry picking well advanced and Marionberry harvest was underway. Early planted green beans nearly ready. Sweet corn growing fast, some past knee high. Nurseries were irrigating on a regular basis. Dryland pastures were showing definite signs of moisture stress. Cattle still appear to be in good condition.

COOS\CURRY: First cutting of grass hay wrapping up. Pastures continued to dry out, especially uplands, away from river bottoms. Cranberries were in late stages of bloom and fruit set was evident; some growers were applying fertilizer; plans were being made to remove bee hives used for pollination service. Easter lily growers continued to maintain production and prepared new beds for planting. Dry weather continued. Air temperatures were slightly warmer than the previous week. Average air temperatures at coastal AgriMet weather stations ranged from 57.4 to 58.2 deg F; highs ranged from 69.5 to 69.7, and lows ranged from 47.1 to 49.0 deg F. Precipitation was 0.00" at both Brookings-Harbor and Bandon. Growing degree days (base 50 deg F) ranged from 57 GDD at Bandon to 58 GDD at Brookings-Harbor.

JACKSON: Some winter wheat ready for harvest. Haying still being done. Fruits showing good growth, but the dry weather forced lots of irrigation. Peaches about ready for harvest. Orchards still spraying. Vineyards showing good growth. Caneberries about ready for harvest. Wild blackberries setting lots of fruit. Vegetable gardeners and farmers were busy with irrigation and weeding. Early corn showing good growth. Greenhouses still busy with some late plants, cleanup and maintenance. Some were starting with fall flowers. Nurseries doing lots of stock watering, feeding and weeding. Cattle being moved to better pastures with irrigation or to higher ranges. Cattle on good pastures also look good. Temperatures in the high nineties and nights in the high fifties. Late afternoon winds have really dried out the soil. A good rain would help, but would hamper harvests.

JOSEPHINE: Raspberries, summer squash and sweet onions ready. Nut crop looks to be nil in our area. Hay was looking good. Not ready for second cutting. Weather has been hot and dry with gusty winds. We did have some marine air move in Friday and cooled things down a bit, but the winds are still gusty and drying. Temperatures in the nineties with overnights in the fifties. Good watermelon growing weather. Animals still look good but most were on irrigated pastures. A lot of field mowing and brush clearing.

LANE: Grass seed being harvested. Grass hay being harvested for livestock. Cherries nearing end of major harvest with good yields. Peaches ripening. Apples, pears and hazelnuts look very promising. Strawberry crop nearing end; good but short. Raspberries and blueberries looking very good. Blackberries looked like a big crop. Vegetable crops continued to grow.

MARION: Grass seed harvest is in full swing. Early yield reports are mixed but generally average to lower.

WASHINGTON: Apple crop looks dismal on most varieties. Hood strawberries finished, but later varieties coming on. Raspberries, blackberries and blueberries being picked and sold at road side stands and farmer's markets. Fruit trees and berry plants for sale at nurseries. Marionberries, boysenberries and cherries ripe and for sale. Wheat nearing harvest time. Most grass fields in windrow and many fields being combined. Crimson clover finishing with good yields. Irrigation being applied to every needy crop where water supplies remain in good supply. Temperatures ranged from 92 degrees high to 57 degrees low. All corn doing well.

YAMHILL: Hazelnut growers began spraying for hazelnut worm this week. Sweet cherry harvest continued in the higher elevations.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER: Everything progressing well. Crops look good. Grass hay has good yields. First cutting of alfalfa is average. Lots of cattle contracted on the recent satellite sale for quite good prices.

HARNEY: Meadow hay harvest continued. Rye hay harvested. Alfalfa hay being irrigated. Hot, dry weather has been good for hay harvest but ranges could sure use a rain. Stockwater shortages getting worse in some areas. Grasshopper infestations still popping up. More areas to be treated for grasshoppers next week. Dusty, hot and dry. Winds in the afternoons.

HOOD RIVER: With the cherry harvest in full swing and Hood River Cherry Days just around the corner, cherries are becoming a big part of Hood River agriculture this time of year. There are 2,000 total acres of cherries - 1,000 acres which are currently in production and 1,000 acres which are still developing. Hood River produces an average of 4,000 tons of cherries each season. Production is expected to increase over the next three or four years, according to the OSU Experiment Station in Hood River.

MALHEUR: Hot! That is what the weather has been. The corn is growing well. Wheat harvest is underway in the Cairo Junction area and Adrian. The second cutting of alfalfa is almost finished and some fields of third cutting have been observed. Irrigation water is still holding well in spite of the hot weather. Several fields of large sized onions have been seen, which is good provided the water lasts.

SHERMAN: Expect early wheat cutting to begin next week.

UMATILLA: Harvest is getting started. Limited information available on yield and test weights. Reports of lower than expected yields are being heard in the early harvest areas.

UNION: Grass seed harvest well underway. Some farmers ready to start second cutting of hay. Winter wheat in soft dough stage. Need moisture. Cultivation of some summer fallow fields has begun. Some second cuttings of alfalfa just beginning. Weather continues to be hot and dry. Threat of thunderstorms for this week did not materialize. Only one small storm in the Grande Ronde valley at the beginning of

the week. Very little moisture associated. Significantly more rain fell in the surrounding mountains but near record temperatures in the days following negated any benefit. Winter wheat harvest has not started.

WALLOWA: Things are really getting hot and dry here. The fall wheat is starting to turn and will be ready to harvest before we know it. Got a little bit of rain with thundershowers on Monday. Pasture in the hills is drying up and could really use rain. Livestock looks good though.

WASCO: A near perfect cherry harvest has growers smiling. We have moderate to high yields and large fruit size. In addition, "packout" rates are running over 90 percent. The weather has been good to area growers. There was no rain since May and a lot less wind that causes scarring, which can increase the cullage rates. On an annual bases, this year's harvest is average to slightly above average, because many orchards have recently replaced trees with new varieties that aren't yet producing. The only disappointment was in the market price, which fluctuated as harvest moved through California and into Washington. Local cherries were better sized and growers did receive higher prices. Cherry harvest in The Dalles is finishing up, with the harvest of canning cherries, freezers and late varieties such as Lapins. The harvest is now moving to the higher elevations south of The Dalles, with harvest of Bing taking place the week of July 7. Quality remains exceptionally high with large fruit. Grain farmers are scrambling to get harvest equipment ready so they can get started. Harvest activity picked up through the week. Other field activities included summer fallow cultivation and fertilization. Second cutting of alfalfa hay getting started. Apricots ripening fast. Range and pastures are bone dry and livestock watering ponds drying up fast.

WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING JULY 13, 2003 (as of 11:00 am)

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	52	74	62	3	84	17	0.15	-0.14	2	59.67	-4.85	92	176
Crescent City	45	70	58	0	59	3	0.01	-0.06	1	58.54	-5.51	91	122
Florence	42	79	64	5	97	27	0.01	-0.20	1	75.22	0.50	101	148
North Bend	50	70	60	2	71	8	0.00	-0.11	0	64.22	2.08	103	142
Tillamook	46	82	64	6	96	40	0.26	-0.14	2	83.53	-2.56	97	167
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Corvallis	50	91	70	5	139	34	0.00	-0.14	0	33.28	-8.30	80	119
Eugene	47	90	69	3	134	16	0.00	-0.13	0	40.1	-7.95	83	143
Hillsboro	48	87	68	3	129	22	0.00	-0.14	0	36.06	-0.19	99	141
McMinnville	50	89	69	4	132	25	0.00	-0.14	0	39.99	-2.24	95	150
Portland	54	88	70	3	143	19	0.00	-0.14	0	33.57	-1.31	96	143
Salem	50	88	69	4	132	21	0.00	-0.14	0	39.4	1.26	103	145
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	52	97	74	4	173	25	0.00	-0.05	0	33.05	2.63	109	107
Medford	53	95	75	3	175	19	0.00	-0.07	0	22.49	4.28	124	103
Roseburg	52	95	72	5	156	30	0.00	-0.09	0	31.79	-0.10	100	124
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	47	92	70	5	141	33	0.00	-0.11	0	12.7	-0.43	97	101
Heppner	51	99	74	6	167	37	0.01	-0.06	1	11.29	-1.75	87	102
Hermiston	49	101	76	4	184	28	0.00	-0.06	0	7.74	-0.72	91	76
John Day	49	97	72	5	157	32	0.03	-0.10	1	11.03	-1.10	91	98
Moro	49	95	71	4	147	27	0.00	-0.07	0	9.94	-0.56	95	78
Pendleton	53	100	76	4	182	25	0.01	-0.06	1	11.3	-0.01	100	94
The Dalles	50	92	74	8	169	56	0.00	-0.07	0	13.89	2.02	117	85
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Bend	46	92	69	7	133	43	0.04	-0.10	1	7.19	-3.70	66	63
Burns	38	95	68	3	126	16	0.02	-0.05	1	7.87	-1.22	87	81
Klamath Falls	41	88	65	-2	109	-12	0.03	-0.04	1	10.96	-1.73	86	85
Lakeview	39	90	64	-3	99	-16	0.00	-0.07	0	7.2	-7.70	48	52
Redmond	45	95	69	5	136	29	0.00	-0.12	0	7.02	-0.79	90	70
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	41	95	69	3	131	18	0.10	-0.04	1	8.76	-0.89	91	88
Joseph	48	91	68	10	130	63	0.36	0.15	1	18.82	-4.52	81	135
La Grande	46	97	72	4	155	24	0.25	0.11	1	10.89	-5.33	67	96
Union	48	98	72	7	152	42	0.02	-0.12	1	14.83	2.28	118	115
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	55	104	80	5	215	31	0.00	-0.07	0	8.09	-1.08	88	73
Rome	49	101	77	6	188	38	0.00	-0.07	0	6.58	-1.03	86	69

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Sunday, September 1, 2002.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Copyright 2003: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Janice A. Goodwin, State Statistician

Oregon Crop Weather 15-03
Kevin Young, Math Statistician